

(d) The total financial outlay involved is as follows:

	(Rs. in Crores)	
	Spacecraft cost	Launch Cost & insurance (Actuals)
INSAT-1A & 1B	55.29	30.41
INSAT-1C	80.28	46.29
INSAT-1D	79.58	61.55
INSAT-2A,2B	329.94	198.30
INSAT-2C,2D & 2E	480.70	785.10

(e) and (f) INSAT has established itself as one of the basic communication and meteorological infrastructure of the country. INSAT system consists of more than 280 ground earth stations, 800 TV transmitters, and over 190 AIR transmitters all of which are networked through the INSAT space craft. INSAT has helped in now providing connectivity to remote and inaccessible areas and offshore areas. There are also more than 5000 private V-SATs including the National Stock Exchange which operate through INSAT. INSAT satellites provide daily Very High Resolution Radio Meter (VHRR) imagery and meteorological data from remote platforms for weather forecasting, disaster warning and disaster management. The Disaster Warning System which is a unique service through INSAT has become very useful and has saved several thousands of lives over the years. The data networks such as National Informatics Network (NICNET) provides invaluable benefits to all levels of administration including the judiciary. Rapid expansion of the TV network apart from providing the entertainment, definitely has brought informational revolution to every nook and corner of the country. The educational value of the INSAT system has been amply proven by the use of INSAT by University Grants Commission (UGC), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the Training and Developmental Communications Network, Jhabua Developmental Communications Project etc. The present accounting system followed for the INSAT programme does not permit an accurate estimate of the financial returns from the system as there are no funds transfer from the User agencies. however, it can be confidently stated that the system has started paying for itself. Based on a conservative estimate, the annual revenue of the INSAT system is around Rs. 350.00 Crores presently.

(g) INSAT-2E the next satellite in the INSAT series, is scheduled for launch in June/July of 1998. The third generation satellites (INSAT-3 series) has been approved by the Government. The INSAT-3 series will consist of five satellites to be launched between 1999 and

2002 AD. INSAT-3 satellites will replace the statellites of INSAT-2 series which are near the end of their life and also will augment the overall communications capacity. There will be qualitative improvement in the meteorological imaging services also.

[Translation]

Development of Hindi Computer

*12. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop computer in Hindi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have a scheme to spread computer literacy in the villages;

(d) whether difficulty is being experienced due to Hindi letters in the alphabets not being arranged sequentially on the key board;

(e) if so, the steps being taken to remedy the situation;

(f) whether the Government propose to make computer education compulsory in all the schools and colleges; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Department of Electronics has been promoting the development of technology for enabling work on computers in Hindi and other Indian languages, both in Government and private sector. The following are the main achievements:—

Indigenous development of Graphics Based Intelligence Script Technology (GIST) by the Centre for Development of advance Computing (C-DAC), Pune, an autonomous Society under the Department of Electronics. In addition, a number of organisations in public/private sector are also engaged in development and marketing of Hindi application softwares. These efforts have made it possible to enable use of Hindi and other Indian Languages on Personal Computers. Efforts have also been made by a number of other organisations to localise system and application softwares to promote use of computers in Hindi and other Indian languages.

(c) While there is no such specific scheme, project proposals involving demonstration of computer

applications at village level are considered as part of the programme for promotion of application of electronics for social and rural development.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. INSCRIPT (Indian Script) Keyboard overlay adopted as per the Indian Standard (IS 13194 : 1991) is being popularly used as input mechanism to the computer which allows convenient use of both Roman as well as Indian alphabets.

(f) and (g) While there is no such proposal at present to make computer education compulsory, there are a number of schemes which promote computer education in schools and colleges.

[English]

Nuclear Weapon

*13 SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan Prime Minister in his address to UN General Assembly stated that Pakistan has the capability to develop nuclear weapons of its own;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Government propose to review its stand on development of nuclear weapons; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In his speech to the 52nd Session of the UN General Assembly on 22nd September, 1997, the Pakistan Prime Minister said that "We have demonstrated that we can master the most advanced technologies. We can now deter external aggression".

(c) and (d) Government closely monitors all developments relating to Pakistan's clandestine nuclear weapons programme. Government of India remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its assessment of developments relating to India's security environment.

Fight Against Corruption

*14. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Anti-Corruption Cell has been set up in the Prime Minister's Office;

(b) if so, the role and functions of the Cell;

(c) whether the Cell is recording corruption charges from the general public against public servants;

(d) whether there is any institutional mechanism to probe their charges and allegations; and

(e) the total number of complaints received by this Cell, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. No Anti-Corruption Cell has been set up in the Prime Minister's Office. However, a small unit for monitoring anti-corruption cases has been raised in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) by reorganising the available staff. The Unit monitors and pursues the complaints on corruption with Ministries/Departments etc. whose Head of the Department is responsible for maintaining purity and integrity in accordance with the existing instructions.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Unit is recording all complaints received from the general public on the subject of corruption against public servants.

(d) All complaints of corruption against public servants are sent by the PMO to designated nodal officers of the rank of Joint Secretary in each Ministry/Department who are already having an institutional mechanism consisting of vigilance set-up headed by Chief Vigilance Officers and their supporting staff to enquire into complaints of corruption. The CVC and CBI are other agencies who provide necessary assistance, wherever required, to the Ministries/Departments.

(e) The Anti-Corruption Unit in the PMO has received 2402 complaints till the 12th November, 1997.

Population Control

*15. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether population control programme has not achieved its target during the last two years;